

Joelle M. Sweeney

EDUCATION

Dec 2008, **M.S. in Marine Science**, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Moss Landing, CA
Major Advisor: Dr. James T. Harvey

May 1998, **B.S. in Pre-Veterinary Sciences**, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Jan – Feb 2009, **Research Technician**, Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA, South Shetland Islands, Antarctica
Collected, identified, and quantified Antarctic zooplankton species from IKMT net tows.

June – Sept 2008, Summer 2009, **Seabird Biologist**, CA State Parks
Monitoring Marbled Murrelets in central California with at-sea surveys in 2008-2009

Mar 2003 – Oct 2008, **Graduate Assistant**, Vertebrate Ecology Laboratory, Moss Landing, CA
I conducted a captive sea lion diet study. I cared for 9 sea lions. I identified and quantified all structures (bones, lenses and cephalopod beaks) of sea lion prey collected from scat and spew to develop correction factors and assess accuracy of four consumption models. My findings are now being used by NOAA/NMFS scientists to accurately estimate sea lion diet.

Jan 2005 – Aug 2007, **Necropsy and Pathology Technician**, Seabird Health Study, Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center (MWVCRC), California Fish and Game, Santa Cruz, CA
Necropsy Technician: perform necropsies on sea birds found dead along U.S. Pacific Coast; obtain survey tissues and organs, record necropsy findings, data entry.
Pathology Technician: prepare tissues for preparation of histological slides

May 2006 – Sept 2007, **Research Assistant**, Storm Petrel Population Survey, USGS, CA
Capture and leg-band storm petrels on Scorpion Rock, Santa Cruz Island, CA

Dec 2002 – Aug 2005, **Research Associate**, The Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, CA
Perform necropsies and obtain marine mammal specimen (hard parts, tissue, and fluid) for distribution to research and educational facilities. Skills gained: elephant seal and California sea lion venipuncture; interpreting bacterial plates for water quality.

June 2004 – Apr 2009, **Research Assistantships:**

- Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Monterey County, CA (6 yrs)
- Harbor seal tagging and population assessment project, Channel Islands, Moss Landing, and San Francisco Bay area, CA (5 yrs)
- Shorebird abundance surveys, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, CA (4yrs)
- Marine mammal and seabird surveys, Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, UC Santa Cruz, CA
- Amphibian assessment for wetland restoration designation for Salinas River estuarine system, CA
- Sooty shearwater trans-Pacific migration project, Moss Landing, CA
- BeachCOMBER beach surveys, Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, CA
- Eastern Pacific green turtle tracking, Bahia de Magdalena, Baja Sur, Mexico
- Monterey Bay Marine Reserve assessments (Lingcod tracking), Stillwater Cove, CA

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ANIMAL MEDICAL EXPERIENCE

SMALL ANIMAL CLINICS:

Sept 2000 – Dec 2002, **Veterinary Technician (Assistant)**, Mill Valley Pet Clinic, Mill Valley, CA

Small animal nursing and in-patient treatment, venipuncture, catheter placement and maintenance, anesthetic induction, maintenance, and surgical recovery, pulse oximeter, apmeter, and Dinamap blood pressure monitoring, dental/ skeletal radiographs, wound care and bandage placement, dental prophylaxis, vaccine and medicinal administration

July – Aug 1997, **Veterinary Assistant**, Village Veterinary Clinic, Brookline, MA

Sept 1994 – Jan 1997, **Veterinary/ Kennel Assistant**, Westfield Veterinary Group, Westfield, NJ

REHABILITATION CENTERS/ ZOOS/ OTHER:

Nov 2007, **Seabird Caretaker**, “Mystery Spill” and Cosco Busan Oil Spill, Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center (MWVCR), California Fish and Game, Santa Cruz, CA

June 2000 – Mar 2004, **Assistant Animal Care Supervisor; Volunteer**, The Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, CA

Pinniped Husbandry: Prepare food and feed animals, administer medication and subcutaneous fluids, clean enclosures, weigh, tube feed; Restrained and handled: California sea lions, Northern elephant seal pups and yearlings, Stellar sea lions, fur seals.

Cetacean Husbandry: Monitor cetacean’s behavior, respiratory and heart rate, feed, medicate

June 1999, **Animal Caretaker**, The Australian Zoo, Flora and Fauna Park, Beerwah, Qld, Australia
Fed reptilian, avian, mammalian, and marsupial inhabitants, cleaned enclosures

Nov-Dec 1998, **Animal Caretaker**, Native Ark Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Perth, WA, Australia

AWARDS

2008 San Francisco State University Travel Award

2008 David and Lucile Packard Grant

2007 Dr. Earl H. Myers & Ethel M. Myers Oceanographic and Marine Biology Trust scholarship

1993 – 1994 Alpha, Lambda, Delta Honors Society

PUBLICATIONS

In Preparation: Sweeney, J.M. and J.T. Harvey, Variables affecting hard part recovery from scats and spews of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Referee: Lalas, C. The large octopus *Pinnoctopus cordiformis* as the most important prey species of New Zealand sea lions at Otago Peninsula, South Island, New Zealand

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PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Variables affecting hard part recovery from scats and spews of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*)

Oral Presentation: November 6 – 9, 2008, Western Society of Naturalists, Vancouver, B.C.,
Canada

Poster Presentations: May 11, 2006, San Francisco State University Graduate Work Showcase,
SF, CA

March 4, 2006, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Symposium,
Monterey, CA

December 12–16, 2005, The 16th Biennial Conference on the
Biology of Marine Mammals, San Diego, CA

Disinfection By-Product (Trihalomethane) in a pinniped rehabilitation facility

Poster Presentation: December 5 – 10, 2004, Sixth The International Aquarium Congress,
Monterey, CA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE/ SERVICE

Aug – Dec 2007, **Teaching Assistant**, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML), Moss Landing, CA
Graduate level course MS 112, Marine Mammal, Bird, and Turtle Biology

Sept 2006 – Oct 2008, **Student Representative**, MLML Academic Curriculum Committee

Oct 1999 – May 2000, **Teaching and Curriculum Development**, The Newark Museum, Newark, NJ

OTHER SKILLS

Computer Skills: Word, Excel, PowerPoint preparations and presentations, Access,
Systat (statistical package)

Certifications: MLML Small Boat Operations, NAUI scientific diver certified, Nitrox diver certified, PADI
SCUBA certified, Professional CPR, trained Wilderness First Responder

Interests: Wilderness Backpacking, Mountain and Road Biking, Vegetable Gardening, Photography,
Yoga, Sustainable Living, Astronomy, Skiing, Horseback riding, Rock climbing

Fun Facts:

Worked on Australian cattle stations in Western Australia as a Jillaroo (9/1998-5/1999),
jobs included: Mustered cattle on horseback with helicopter, drafted cattle, utilized ATVs for long
distance travel over rough terrain, erecting and maintaining station fencing, operated farm machinery,
welding projects

Raced mountain bikes at the Sea Otter Classic in 2003, 2004

Participated in road bike centuries (100 miles) in Napa County and Placer County